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# And then there were 20

And even more expected  
to seek LMC presidency

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**

HP Correspondent

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP**  
— The search for Lake Michigan College's new president is underway with 20 applicants already expressing interest in the job.

That was the word Tuesday from the Pauly Group's president, Angela Provart, whose firm is coordinating the search with the LMC Board – which is working on a Nov. 7 application deadline or until the job is filled.

The 20 applications represent about half the final candidate pool that Provart's firm will help the college whittle down, now that the job's posted, she said.

“I would guess that we'll have between 50 and 60 applications in total. At this point, our goal is to have the best applicant pool that we can,” Provart said.

Provart's comments followed a brief presentation that she gave during Tuesday's meeting at

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## LMC

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LMC's South Haven campus.

Word has definitely gotten out, Provart told the board, which decided to wait until the 2016-17 academic year kicked off before it posted the job – in hopes of widening its potential choices.

"I'm anticipating a very strong applicant pool. I know you've already had potential applicants looking up information on your campus," she said.

The board is seeking a successor for Jennifer Spielvogel, whom it fired at a public hearing in May 5, after three months on the job, citing allegations of unauthorized spending, and unprofessional behavior.

Former President Bob Harrison then returned to the job from which he'd retired in December 2015. He's serving as president emeritus/acting CEO, for which the board is paying him \$5,000 per month – until it finds a permanent successor.

LMC Board Chairman Mary Jo Tomasini hopes to see the field further narrowed to 10 semi-finalists, from which the board could choose three or four finalists to interview.

The college hopes to sit down with its finalists in November, and get its top candidate in place by January 2017, though it hasn't ruled out going into the early part of next year if events dictate.

Tomasini, Vice President Michael Lindley and Secretary Debra Johnson are the three board representatives on the committee work-

ing with the Pauly Group to find Harrison's replacement.

The committee, which also includes faculty members, employees and community representatives, was supposed to hold its first meeting Monday.

Asked what the college is doing differently this time around, Tomasini cited two factors.

"First, we've hired a different search firm," Tomasini said. "This firm specifically has experience with community and technical colleges. The other thing that's different is that we're using different testing tools. Whirlpool has agreed to let us their leadership evaluation tools, when we get down to our finalists. Whirlpool is supporting our effort with an in-kind donation."

The search committee will work closely with Provart throughout the process, which should help in weeding out unsuitable candidates – or the "walking wounded," as Tomasini referred to them a couple months ago.

That's where someone with Provart's experience will make a difference, Tomasini said.

"Angela's firm is very experienced with that. She will know who the 'walking wounded' are because they'll have circulated several times. She's got a list, and she's familiar with those folks. She'll be culling the herd, so to speak," she said.

Spielvogel has since sued the college for breach of contract, claiming that the board micromanaged her, and undercut her authority. No court date has been set yet.